

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 IO-13
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
OMB-01 SAA-01 SES-02 AID-05 /124 W
-----113718 051123Z /21

O P 051040Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9084
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: AUGUST 5, 1978 - 1200 HOURS LOCAL

1. MORE FIGHTING IN BEIRUT.

(A) CHRISTIANS AND SYRIANS AGAIN EXCHANGED FIRE THROUGHOUT THE EAST BEIRUT AREA THE EVENING OF AUGUST 4-5. THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE (ADF) SAID THERE WERE TWO PEOPLE KILLED AND 16 WOUNDED,
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WHILE THE UNIFIED COMMAND OF THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS SAID THREE WERE KILLED AND 14 WOUNDED. FOR THE SECOND NIGHT IN A ROW, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY IN SIOUFI WAS SHELLED. AS USUAL BOTH SIDES ACCUSED THE OTHER OF STARTING THE FIGHTING.

(B) MEANWHILE THE ADF CLAIMED THE SHELLING IN WEST BEIRUT ON AUGUST 4 WAS AIMED AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY FUND AND WAS THE "WORK OF PEOPLE KNOWN TO HAVE SENT MENACES TO THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND ON AUGUST 3, 1978 WITH THE AIM OF MAKING IT RESCIND CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES." THE COMMUNIQUE DID NOT IDENTIFY THESE PEOPLE.

2. ARMY BATTALION STILL HALTED.

(A) LEBANESE ARMY BATTALION REMAINS HALTED AT KAWKABA. CHRISTIAN MILITIA LEADER SA'AD HADDAD DECLARED A 24 HOUR CEASE-FIRE BEGINNING THE MORNING OF AUGUST 4, ACCORDING TO MOST BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS, AND IKE SAID THAT THE CEASE-FIRE HAD BEEN EXTENDED ANOTHER 24 HOURS BEGINNING THE MORNING OF AUGUST 5.

(B) L'ORIENT-LE JOUR CITED "LEBANESE MILITARY SOURCES" AS SAYING THE BATTALION WOULD LEAVE SHORTLY FOR TIBNIN, AND THAT THE MILITIAS HAD AGREED TO TAKE UP THE MINES BLOCKING THE BATTALION'S PASSAGE. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR ALSO REPORTED THAT HADDAD HAD MET AUGUST 4 "IN METULLA" WITH UNIFIL'S DEPUTY COMMANDER, JEAN CUQ, BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN "NO CONCRETE RESULTS." UNIFIL'S COMMANDER EMMANUEL ERSKINE VISITED KAWKABA THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 4, ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS.

3. HOSS CONDEMNS REBEL OFFICERS.

PREMIER SELIM AL-HOSS TOLD THE PRESS ON AUGUST 3 THAT CHRISTIAN MILITIA LEADERS SAAD HADDAD AND SAMI CHIDIAC "WILL BE DEALT WITH THE SAME WAY WE WOULD TREAT ANY OFFICER WHO TAKES THE SIDE OF THE ENEMY AGAINST HIS OWN ARMY. . . THERE WILL BE NO ARGUMENT ON THAT SCORE." HOSS SAID THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY BATTALION NOW AT KAWKABA "WILL RESUME ITS ADVANCE SOUTH AND WILL NOT CHANGE ITS COURSE OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RETREAT." HOSS ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO REQUEST A UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING.

4. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FORMED.

THE PHALANGE POLITBURO ON AUGUST 3 DECIDED TO CREATE AN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO HANDLE "ALL POLITICAL, MILITARY, FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL MATTERS," ACCORDING TO LE REVEIL. THE COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN WILL BE AMINE GEMAYEL AND ITS MEMBERS THE CHIEFS OF THE PARTY'S COUNCILS FOR MILITARY AFFAIRS (BASHIR GEMAYEL), FINANCE AND HEALTH, AS WELL AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE VOICE OF LEBANON, AND THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF AL AMAL.

5. MUFTI ATTACKS COLLABORATION WITH ENEMY.

THE MUFTI OF LEBANON, HASSAN KHALID, ISSUED A STATEMENT AUGUST 4, ON THE EVE OF RAMADAN, IN WHICH HE ATTACKED RIGHTIST ARMY OFFICERS AND RIGHTIST POLITICAL LEADERS FOR THEIR "COLLABORATION WITH THE ZIONIST ENEMY." HE ALSO CONDEMNED THE STATE AND THE PEOPLE FOR "LACK OF JUSTICE AND THE PERPETUATION OF CONFSSIONAL POLITICAL PRIVILEGES."

6. GRANT AGREEMENT SIGNED.

ON AUGUST 4 AMBASSADOR PARKER SIGNED A GRANT TO UNICEF OF \$6.5

MILLION. THE MONEY WILL BE USED TO HELP REHABILITATE AND IMPROVE POTABLE WATER SYSTEMS IN LEBANON. THE FIRST PRIORITY IN USING THE U.S. GRANT WILL BE THE RESTORATION OF WATER SERVICE IN PARTS OF SOUTH LEBANON.

7. VISITORS.

PRESIDENT ELIAS SARKIS MET WITH EUGENE PRIMAKOV, DIRECTOR OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE USSR ON AUGUST 3. MARONITE PATRIARCH ANTONIOUS KOREICHE ARRIVED IN PARIS FROM ROME ON AUGUST 3. A WEST GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION MET WITH NLP LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN ON AUGUST 4.

8. NOTE TO AUGUST 4. SITREP.

CAMILLE CHAMOUN, WHEN HE DENIED THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHELLING WEST BEIRUT, SPECIFIED THAT THE SYRIANS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHELLING.
PARKER

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